College Library

HAMILTON LIFE

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College

VOL. XI CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1909 No. 14

VARSITY WINS SNAPPY PRACTICE GAME

The basketball season opened last Tuesday afternoon with a practice game with Utica Free Academy. The Varsity won by the score of 61 to 18. The game was lacking in features, altho the floor work of Allen was excellent. Capt. Roenke also played in good form. Sherwin, at center, was good on offense, but was very weak on defense. For Utica, Ruth and Inman played the best game.

The Varsity seems to lack team work. Their passing, at times, was good and at others very poor. The result of the game promises a very successful season and was all that can be desired so early in the season.

The line-up:

HAMILTON 61.	U. F. A. 18.
Right Forward.	
Allen	Folley (capt.)
Left Forward.	
Roenke (capt.)	Ruth
Center.	
Sherwin	Inman
Right Guard.	
Conklin (Hopkins)	Russeau
Left Guard.	
Getman (Regin, Glover)	Pringle

Referee, Sicard, '06; Timekeeper, Knox, '10; Time of Halves, 20 minutes.

JUNIOR PROM.

At the beginning of this week cards inviting the alumni as far back as the Class of 1905 to the Junior Prom. were sent out. This was by way of experiment, and lack of time only prevented a further extension of this plan. Any alumnus to whom this paper comes should regard himself as invited on the same terms as the others. It is the earnest wish of the committee to secure a good representation among the alumni, and the fact that February 12th, the day after the Prom., is a State holiday should make it easier for them to attend. The committee will make out dance programs for such as wish it upon the following plan: They will first reserve dances among the alumni of the same class who expect to attend, and then turn over the card to the alumnus' crowd, who will complete it. Those wishing to take advantage of this arrangement should notify the Chairman of the Prom. Committee promptly. It is thought that this will attract many of the "old boys" back to renew old friendships and forget "the cold, cold world" once more in the warmth of "our lady's" greeting. Of the Prom. itself little need be said. The lights are to be so arranged as to lend themselves to attractive effects in decoration, and there will be a current tap for each booth. Zita will bring from Albany the best orchestra to be found in this part of the State. The precise design of the programs is a secret, but they will be absolutely unique, being made specially for this event.

While it is, of course, impossible to give definite numbers at this time, the support promises to be gratifying. Certain it is that those who do not come will regret it. A special committee is working on some startling features, but these will not be divulged until the very last minute. It is only about a month away, and it will soon be too late to send your invitation. Decide right now and decide right. You will have the time of your life, and no regrets afterward.

GYM. SHOW ABANDONED

At a meeting of the Gym. show Committee, on Thursday, the plan of holding a combination Gymnastic-Musical-Dramatic entertainment in Utica on March 12th was abandoned. After thoro consideration of all the circumstances and prospects, such decision was made unanimously. To LIFE the step seems eminently timely and unquestionably advisable.

The purpose of the proposed show was to make financially possible the installation of electric lights in the Gymnasium. The idea was inaugurated last term, and that plan was determined by the action of the Advisory Board, thru which the committee was authorized to let the contract for the lights, the Board pledging support to the extent of $175, on provision that a Gym. Show be held to help pay for the expense. In case the proceeds realized from this were not sufficient, the Board promised to make up the deficit.

Accordingly, arrangements were begun for the show. The Majestic Theater was the only possible place in which the entertainment could be held. The lowest price for which this could be engaged was $250. Only $150 having been paid for the same privilege three years ago, the terms were, on the face of them, exorbitant and discouraging. At that rate $600 in receipts would be the lowest estimate by which the $175 could be realized. This would necessitate the financial aid of every man in College—without the aid of outside patronage—to the extent of $3 per capita. Whatever of such patronage would be possible, could be obtained only thru a large expenditure of energy and time; and when the grounds for hoping aid from this source are considered coldly, the factor is almost negligible. Consequently, the expense per man—whether one of the sixty participants or not—would, in all probability, approach $3.

Such being the facts, the truth was obvious that the cheaper means would be to drop the Gym. Show and to raise the desired amount by student subscription. The gross expense will approximate $175—contract $148.50 and meters $25. The Basketball management has pledged the proceeds of the

Junior Prom. game—probably about $50. As some of the alumni are interested, the entire burden on the College will be $130 at the most—which means about 75 cents per man.

Every consideration points to the wisdom of the present plan. Two dollars saved to each man in College is a fact that, in itself, makes the old scheme an absurdity. Of course, the total of $130 must be realized immediately. But the economy and plain common sense of the scheme will prompt every man to contribute his just share on request. The energy, time,—yes, money, that would have been wasted on the old scheme, are incalculable, but the probability of a great all-around loss and general failure, seems to have been beyond question.

LIT. CRITIQUE

The December *Lit.* is a good one. It is a credit to the board. The proof-reading is at fault three or four times; but the excellence and variety of the composition overshadowed this easy defect. All of it has local college interest; most of it is interesting to the larger college; and some of it is worthy a yet wider circle of readers.

My running comment would be:

The poetry is not so good as the prose—it generally is not. Welch's poem and the rondel by Truax would smell as sweet by other names. "The Port of the Derelict Love" has a rolling motion which, in a choppy sea, finally sinks it. Some useless repetitions mar the poem and also some contradictions. The figures are too complex for definiteness. This is not saying that there are not a dozen strong lines in it. "The Play" is excellent, tho my dictionary does not make me sure about the "hole" into which the fifth line runs. Is that humorous, or slangy, or theatrical, or poor copy? This—the eighth—Campus Ode is not equal to some of its forebears. In it I like the last two stranzas better than the first. The ode improves with re-reading. It is hardly fair—eh?—to call the Road Commissioner and the President "Vandals" without a hearing.

For the prose compositions: Sherwin's Travels—despite the fact that the question recurs, "Who is the Donkey?"—and Kamp's Critique, and Woollcott's "The Author's Mother" are good enough for any college magazine. I am reminded by the editorial statement that "Union shares our eccentric devotion to the older ideals in athletics" that the college memory is short. I am glad 'tis true. Hamilton used to think she had a grievance against Union. When the critic advises dropping Cornell and Syracuse, then "so say we all of us."

"Alicia" is above criticism. Rudd does that style to perfection. His satire of women's foibles is interesting, even to men; and may indirectly do some good—not to Rudd. Hastings carries the serial story along to a decent conclusion. The plot is untied quite skillfully; the dialogue runs smoothly. We could wish that he had not said "peacefully inclined" when he meant "peaceably inclined;" that he had made tactful that fool ticket-seller; that he had made less of the "merely nominal consideration of five dollars" and had not shown his familiarity with Syracuse by knocking (it's the right word) her hotels; but what is our happiness beside Billy's and Cicely's, and Ralph's and Edith's?

The Spectator becomes Spectral only by main strength. Whoever he is we are sure he is not doing himself justice. The idea he presents is excellent—let the student body take heed—but it is hard to forgive spectres grammatical mistakes, verbal infelicities and undue circumlocutions. That Declamation is well written. It will speak. It is not, however, quite square to the United States government. The people of this country are not niggardly or ungrateful.

The Hill Notes bring several items of interest, among them the wiring of the Gymnasium. The alumni seem to have been rather idle.

HENRY WHITE, '98.

NOTES

—"Don" Risley has been secured as basketball coach. Thanks to his efforts and those of Capt. Roenke's, the team is rapidly rounding into shape and a successful season is assured. Hatfield, '09, and Glover, '10, have been added to the Varsity squad. In response to Capt. Roenke's call for players, about thirty men have appeared for daily practice.

—The work of moving buildings and grading on Dr. Davenport's new place at the top of Freshman Hill is nearly over. The lot will soon be clear for building.

—Senator Davenport has introduced his first bill in the State Legislature. It is an amendment to the act providing for semi-monthly payment of railroad employes.

—Freshmen prayer meetings will begin again next week. C. B. Thompson, '12, will lead and the topic will be, "Our College Resolutions: What Do They Count For?"

—Practice for the Indoor Relay Team began Thursday. Capt. Spencer, '09, Knox, '10, Colson, '11, C. S. Root, D. S. Root, and Wenigmann, '12, reported as candidates.

—Last Wednesday evening, Miss Hunter, of Utica, entertained the Beta of Sigma Phi and their friends at her home. An enjoyable evening was spent in dancing.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

On Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock there will be a student meeting in Silliman Hall. The topic for discussion will be, "He that overcometh," as referred to in Revelation ii:17, also iii:5 and iii:12. Come and bring someone else.

Those in the mission course on China will begin the study of "Dawn on the Hills of Tang." The book is highly recommended and the study promises to be an interesting one. It will be conducted somewhat as last term.

The Freshmen will meet at the usual hour for their Bible study.

Knox, '10, is busy again with his work among the Italian boys of Utica. A strawride was planned for last Thursday night, with a little musical entertainment as an alternative. He deserves the support of all those willing and able in any way to entertain boys.

Martin, '11. has received and fulfilled several engagements to speak in neighboring villages.

A quartet will be organized shortly, which will greatly aid our deputation work.

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Hamilton Life

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FOR THE STUDENT BODY

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Reportorial

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SPEAKING VERY MUCH in general there are never enough ideas to go around. It is hard, then, for us to get new ideas for LIFE, along with the routine news of the week. But we must have ideas and you must help us. If you have something on which you can speak with authority, write us a signed letter. We will be glad to give it space. If it is a new light on some debated question or a new way of doing some old thing, get it into the head of some one on the Board. Even if it can not be adopted, the College should have a chance to consider it. We welcome every help you can give us, but more than news, more than mechanical work, we need the ideas of your own brain.

FOR SOME TIME PAST Hamilton men have been reaching out in various directions trying their luck in different activities and finding them in general very much to their liking. But we have reached a stage now where activities are so numerous as to seriously interfere with each other. Not only is it hard to find enough men suitable for places on the various organizations, but it is even harder to find the hearty support so necessary for success in any undertaking. A policy on the part of the college of retrenchment, of a careful selection of the worthier and more useful activities, is plainly called for. That this policy will come we may rest assured, and content ourselves meanwhile with considering the question of quality rather than quantity in our college life.

It would be wisest, of course, because most logical, to think first of abolishing whatever receives the least support, and this brings us at once to the underclassmen dances. We submit for the consideration of the colleg our opinion that these dances, all things considered, are not worth while, and that it would be better to combine them with Senior and Junior. Sophomore and Freshman, being held off the Hill and in an alien atmosphere, are steadily waning in popularity. Why not abolish them and have the mid-winter dance under the auspices of the Junior and Freshman classes, turning over Commencement Week to the Seniors and Sophomores?

This plan, or some modification of it, would solve many of the diffculties which confront successive dance committees. Such a combination of forces could perhaps give two dances in the same week, but the details need not be considered here. It is merely our purpose to bring the subject before the college for full discussion.

WHILE WE ARE all willing to agree that modesty is a good thing, we submit that there comes a time when it can easily be overdone and degenerate into mere affectation. This is an age of advertising; no longer does the office seek the man, no longer does the student seek a college to receive him. A college offers a commodity, education; it exacts fees, in tuition; and, therefore, it is right that it should present its claims to the public and seek for students. Standing upon its dignity, a finicky spirit preventing it from direct and vigorous competition with the other colleges of this country, a college cannot produce its maximum of good results and fulfill its destiny. What would be thought of a lumber mill, capable of turning out a product far superior to its rival's, which should refuse on sentimental grounds to join in the competition for raw material? Such a course would be not only ruinous to the mill, but unfair to all producers of the raw lumber. The analogy is plain. A college needs raw material, students; without them it can do nothing. When no systematic attempt is made to get them it works harm not only to the college itself, but to the great body of sub-freshmen who go to other and inferior places. It is as tho the church should lose its hold on men rather than enter into competition with evil. Today the church does advertise and points a lesson there for those whose dignity is too fragile for modern conditions.

So much has been said on the first point because it seems that the greatest obstacle to a scientific, systematic, advertising campaign for Hamilton is this false idea of our own dignity. The question then arises, Is this touchy dignity inseparable from colleges or does it belong to us alone? This point can be settled by concrete facts. Amherst subsidizes a club whose one business is to get Amherst news into the New York papers; everywhere a Colgate man goes in the summer he leaves a string of posters advertising Colgate. Cornell does not scorn to advertise, and there is no reason why it should. When there is something worth while offered, the world should have a chance to know about it. When people ask you about Hamilton you have the right to tell them that it is the *best* little college in the country, and this fact should be far more generally known.

The truth is, we do not make enough of our real advantages. We have better buildings than many a college three times our size; we have a strong and well-balanced faculty, and, above all, we have the men—the finished product—to show. We can point to our alumni with pride. No other col-

lege in the country can show such a high standard of achievement and such a large percentage of prominent men among its graduates. And it is the sort of prominence that counts. Hamilton training, our own college life has made this so. Not everywhere in this country will the statement, "I am a Hamilton man," gain an immediate hearing as will the mention of some of the larger colleges, but so efficient is our training that our graduates gain a hearing for themselves as *men* and reflect honor on their alma mater.

The foregoing facts should certainly influence every one to whom they could be presented, but their presentation should not be left to the activity of the student body. So small are the financial resources, so engrossing and various the activities of the undergraduates and so swiftly do college generations pass, that this plan leads to hap-hazard work and unsatisfactory results. The Press Club in its present form is an excellent thing and the various crowds do fine work in bringing men to college every year, but there should be some one responsible to the Trustees devoting his time to this phase of college welfare. He should have an appropriation to work with, and his work should bring many times the expense in increased revenue. This plan promises results, and results are what we want.

—Thursday night the Y. M. C. A. workers gave the Italian children of Utica a straw-ride.

—Manager Renwick has received an invitation for the Indoor Relay Team to enter the Twenty-Sixth Company's Relay Carnival, in Albany, Feb. 3rd.

—The management of the Musical Clubs is arranging for a concert to be held in Rome some time before the regular midwinter trip.

—The Utica men in college are to unite in presenting one of the new panorama pictures of the College to the Utica Free Academy.

—Hereafter none of the regular boarders in Commons will be allowed to pay on the twenty-five-cents-a-meal basis.

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Local Department

E. P. GLOVER, Local Editor.

NOTES

—The LIFE competition stands as follows: Bagg, Hopkins, Bates, Drummond, Connell, Warren.

—Hamilton defeated Union last evening in a closely played game, the final score being 47 to 28.

—Term bills out. Dig up.

—Wanted: A mail box in South.

—The Glee Club pictures are out.

—Prof. Hawkins is located at No. 30 South.

—The French Club will read Cyrano de Bergerac this term.

—Sherman '05, is now in Panama as an Inspector of the Canal.

—Thompson, '12, has taken up the position of College organist.

—Stone, '10, has returned to College after a strenuous term at Lehigh.

—The basketball management has decided not to issue season tickets this year.

—The date of the Interclass Debate has been changed from Feb. 4th to Feb. 1st.

—Loyal Leavenworth is regaining health rapidly and expects to be back soon after Junior week.

—The list of reading matter for the Freshman composition class has been posted in Truax Hall.

—A second call has been issued by the Bowling Club. All who are able to join should do so at once.

—It is imperative that the assessment for the Football coach for next year should be paid in promptly.

—Communion service will be held in the Chapel at noon, Sunday, January 24th. Further notice will be given.

—The Utica Baseball Club is anxious to have the College use its new field for baseball and football games.

LIT. NOTICE.

The essay competitions for which prizes were offered in the last issue of *Lit.* will close on January 20th, and all essays must be handed in to a member of the Board before that date.

LIFE BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of LIFE Board was held last Tuesday afternoon in Sigma Phi Hall. H. E. Dounce, '10, was elected a member of the Board to fill the vacancy which has been open for competition during fall term.

The advisability of a constitution was discussed, but nothing definite was accomplished in regard to this.

BOWLING CLUB

Already twenty-seven men have joined the Bowling Club. As soon as a few more become members the tournaments will be begun. The managers state that setups will be given to the men holding the high scores. A ten-cent setup will be given to the one holding the high score for a day and a twenty-five-cent setup to the man holding the high score for a week. All desiring to join the club may by paying one dollar to Lewis, '09, or Sidle, '11.

THE HAMILTONIAN

LIFE prints the following announcement by request of the 1910 Hamiltonian Board—

The individual Junior pictures must be in the hands of I. A. Hall, '10, by February 20th at the latest. They are taken at Lewis', and sittings can be had at any time. Photographs of the publication board, the Y. M. C. A. cabinet, the Senior societies, the basketball team, the dance pages, D. T., and any clubs, etc., must be obtainable by the first week in March at the latest, and the editors will greatly appreciate an earlier attention to these matters.

Copy for the literary department, the clubs, etc., the class histories, and the Senior honor lists, is due by March 1st—the Clark Prize appointments will be added to the lists in proof. All Kodak pictures of local interest are "grist to our mill," and will be thankfully received.

If everyone will regard the College year-book as a College enterprise, and will co-operate with the Board by promptness in contribution, so that no pictures, etc., are delayed by any "let-them-hold-up-till-we-get-ready" ideas, the Board will be better able to realize its conception of a book, 'record-breaking' in form, matter, and time of appearance.

BASKETBALL COACH

The Department of Basketball has been exceedingly fortunate in securing as a coach "Don" Risley of Colgate University. Mr. Risley is not only a remarkably clever player himself, but he understands the theory and science of team play and training. He is a glutton for work, and this is an excellent thing in every way for our team. The snappy play in the exhibition practice must have convinced all the spectators that his work is counting and that we have excellent prospects this year.

It is, of course, no secret to the College that the Basketball Management is going to considerable expense this year in order to give the team every chance of equipment and training. This cannot be done without money, and some of this must come from the College. Be hearty in your support, then, fellows, and let every man do his best to help the team along.

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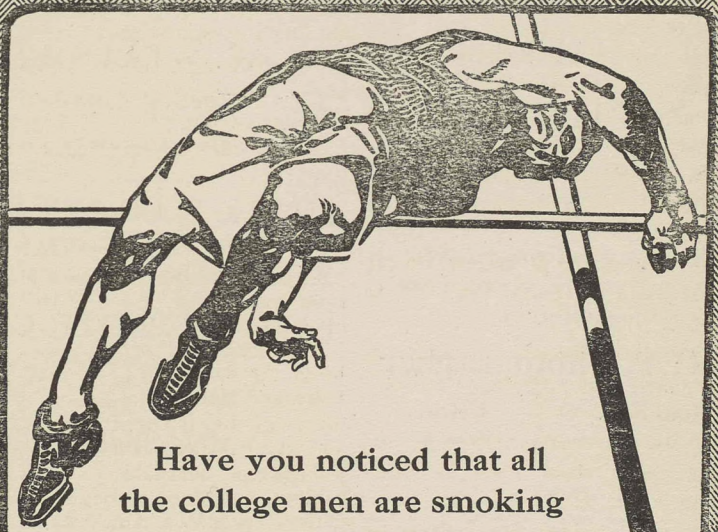

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